

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Szombathely

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

29 July 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

1. Prior to December 1953, Soviet tank troops were quartered in the building of the former Constabulary District Headquarters on the east side of Rohonci Street in Szombathely (P 48/C 78), which was formerly called the New Constabulary Barracks, and the two buildings of the former Constabulary School south and north of Deak Ferenc Street, which were formerly called the Old Constabulary Barracks. Numerous officers were observed at the former Constabulary District Headquarters. The officers who worked in this building lived in evacuated private houses on the north side of Petoefi Sandor Street, formerly Faludy Ferenc Street.<sup>1</sup>

25X1

2. In November 1953, soldiers were seen walking between the two buildings of the former Constabulary School and Ezredevi Park. About 70 soldiers were observed near about 30 canvas-covered tanks which were parked in the northern section of this park in an area surrounded by a wire fence. Some soldiers washed tanks in the Perint Rivulet which ran past the east side of the area. A total of about 60 canvas-covered trucks and soldiers were stored in the open in the southern section of Ezredevi Park north of Szekely Ferenc Street, which was enclosed by a barbed-wire fence. About 30 canvas-covered tanks were observed under two sheds in the eastern sector of the "Locomotive" athletic field, formerly MAV athletic field, which was located on the west side of Rohonci Street and was enclosed by a board fence. In November 1953, one sentry and one truck were observed in front of two concrete garages which were about 35 meters long and were located at the intersection of Joggince Street and Jokai Nor Street. The garages were constructed in 1953. In the fall of 1953, tanks from Ezredevi Park and the "Locomotive" athletic field frequently practiced in the area west of Koezephgyi Street in the western sector of Szombathely.<sup>2</sup>

3. In November 1953, the building of the former Hungarian Army Corps Headquarters on Kalvaria Street was occupied by Soviet troops. Offices were located in the main building, at which officers were frequently observed. Officers were billeted in about eight small villas on the east side of Jokai Nor Street east of Szent Isvan Road. During the

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4.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

25X1

absence of the troops from the station in the summer months, these villas were always unoccupied.<sup>3</sup>

4. In October 1953, the Bagolyvár castle at the intersection Harsai Street and Bagolyvári Street was guarded by a Soviet sentry. Only individuals soldiers were seen at the gate of the installation. It was said that the building was used as a prison of the Soviet Armed Forces.
5. In the fall of 1953, a tank unit and a tank-repair shop were stationed at the former Artillery Barracks on the west side of Harsai Street, formerly Paragvári Street. Soldiers wearing black service color and tank insignia were frequently observed standing guard at the entrance or leaving the installation. Eleven canvas-covered tanks were in the barracks yard and another 30 tanks were observed in the garages of the installation. Several soldiers worked on a disassembled tank in front of the garage. All tanks observed at this installation had large bogie wheels and no track-supporting rollers.<sup>4</sup>
6. In December 1953, the former Cavalry Barracks on the east side of Voaroes hadserög Street, formerly 11th Husar Street, was guarded by a sentry who wore black service color and tank insignia. In the summer of 1952, the installation was separated into two halves by a wire fence which ran from the east to the west. At that time, the classrooms in the southern section of the installation displayed various model tanks and sections of tank components, apparently for instructional purposes. The installation quartered only about half a company of soldiers since the bulk of the troops was at the troop-training grounds. In the fall of 1953, a resident of Szombathely said that the installation was occupied by a tank regiment of about 1,000 soldiers.<sup>5</sup>
7. In October 1953, the former Hungarian Army ration supply depot on the east side of Sceptei Street, about 500 meters north of the intersection of this street and the railroad line to Kosszeg (P 48/X 60), was used by the Soviets. One sentry standing guard at the entrance, patrols, and about 40 soldiers were observed in the area of the depot. Several motor vehicles of the Soviet Armed Forces entered the installation.<sup>6</sup>
8. In the fall of 1953, the Soviet fuel depot on the east side of Sceptei Street, immediately north of the former Hungarian Army ration supply depot, consisted of eight to ten underground tanks of unknown capacity and one small central building, which was presumably a filling station. The depot was fenced in with wire and was guarded by one sentry at the entrance, four sentries on watchtowers in the four corners, and one sentry patrolling inside the installation.<sup>7</sup>
9. In the fall of 1953, one sentry was observed at the entrance of and several soldiers were seen in the Soviet ammunition depot on both sides of Vepi Street, on the south side of Sagi Street. The depot was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, was lighted with searchlights at night, and had four watchtowers.
10. In December 1953, the new building at the intersection of the south side of Zaratí Street and Temesvári Street was occupied by a motorized unit. One sentry, Soviet soldiers, and about 20 motor vehicles of various models including three repair-shop trucks were observed in the area of the installation. The single-story brick building was constructed in 1952 in the area of the former engine factory, which had been completely destroyed by bombs. The building included four sleeping-rooms, one office, and one kitchen. A low wooden building, about 30 meters long, which was intended to be used as a storage, was erected east of the brick building. An open-air car-washing installation with concrete floor was located on the north

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

25X1

side of Zanati Street opposite the brick building. No garages were constructed there. The number of men quartered in the installation was estimated to be about 60.<sup>7</sup>

11. Prior to the fall of 1953, three two-story former private houses on the east side of Alkotmany Street, formerly Szily János Street, were used as billets for Soviet troops. During the summer months these buildings were unoccupied.
12. Prior to the fall of 1953, the two-story building on the north side of Petoefi Sándor Street, opposite Alkotmany Street, was occupied by a Soviet general. A general drove a ZIS sedan which was usually parked in front of the building. Several telephone lines led to the structure, which was guarded by a sentry.
13. Prior to the fall of 1953, the Soviet komendatura was located in a former single-story inn on the west side of Beloiannis Street, formerly Koezégi Street.<sup>8</sup>
14. Prior to the fall of 1953, the Sabaria Hotel at the intersection of the south side of Tolbukhin Street, formerly Erzsébet királyné Street, and Szabo Dezső Street, formerly Brenner János Street, was used as an officers' mess and was regularly closed during the summer months.<sup>9</sup>





1. Comment. The occupation by Soviet troops, probably units of the 17th Gds Mech Div, of the building of the former Constabulary District Headquarters and the two buildings of the former Constabulary School is confirmed by the present report. 25X1
2. Comment. Ezredevi Park and the southern portion of this park, north of Székely Ferenc Street, which is known as the Heroes Gardens, the "Locomotive" athletic field, and the former MAV athletic field, which, in one previous report, was also referred to as the "Haladás" athletic field, were previously reported as tank and motor-vehicle storage areas of Soviet troops stationed at Szombathely. The garages at the intersection of Jégpince Street and Jokai Mór Street, which were constructed in 1953, are reported for the first time. 25X1
3. Comment. The occupation of the building of the former Hungarian Army Corps Headquarters by Soviet troops, probably component units of the 17th Gds Mech Div, was mentioned in several previous reports and is again confirmed by the present report. 25X1
4. Comment. The occupation of the former Artillery Barracks by Soviet troops, also of the 17th Gds Mech Div, is confirmed by the present report. It is believed that T-34 tanks were seen. 25X1
5. Comment. The subdividing of the former Cavalry Barracks into two sections indicates that the installation may have quartered two different units. It is believed that the unit stationed at the southern section was a tank unit. 25X1
6. Comment. The former Hungarian Army ration supply depot was reported as a Soviet billeting area in 1952. The installation apparently contained a Soviet supply depot and also quartered supply troops of the Soviet depot administration. The Soviet fuel depot north of the installation was also mentioned previously. 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

25X1

7.  Comment. The former Mayer Engine Factory on Zanati Street was occupied by a Soviet maintenance unit in 1950. In the meantime, the new building mentioned in the present report was apparently constructed at the old site and the occupation was not changed.
8.  Comment. After 1950, the Soviet komendatura, which was formerly located in the Komitat Building on Berzsényi Square, apparently moved to the location mentioned in the present report.
9.  Comment. The present information again confirms the Soviet officers' mess in the Sabaria Hotel.
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